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## QUARTERLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1822.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Jan. 31, 1822,—the members present were, Bowdoin, Clap, Coolidge, J. Davis, Freeman, Hedge, Holmes, Lowell, Merrill, Pickering, Pierce, Ripley, Savage, Shaw, Tudor, R. Webster, and T. L. Winthrop.

Rev. HENRY WARE, of Boston, was chosen a Resident Member. NATHANIEL A. HAVEN, Jr., Esq., of Portsmouth, JOHN FARMER, Esq.,\* of Amherst, New Hampshire, and Sir WALTER SCOTT † were chosen Corresponding Members.

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\* In a letter to Dr. Lowell, the Recording Secretary, of date July 24, 1822, acknowledging his election, Mr. Farmer says:—

“The distinguished reputation of the Massachusetts Historical Society is known by all lovers of curious research and inquiry throughout our country. Being the first association that was formed in the Union for the purpose of collecting and multiplying documents relating to American history, it is entitled to the highest praise, and deserves the greatest public encouragement. Though the volumes of its Collections have hitherto been principally confined to its members, it is gratifying to learn that their circulation is becoming more extended, and will, most probably, hereafter be eagerly sought after by the American historian and antiquarian. With this you will receive a pamphlet containing a tribute to the memory of Dr. Belknap, to whom our State is indebted for its history, and Massachusetts for its Historical Society. I am informed that this eminent man left a manuscript history of the church of which he was pastor, and I have some hopes of obtaining a copy of it.”—EDS.

† A letter from Sir Walter Scott, acknowledging his election, is on file, and is copied below. It bears no date of year, and is addressed to the Recording Secretary, Dr. Lowell, in answer to a letter from him. Dr. Lowell appears to have frequently performed the duties which usually devolved upon the Corresponding Secretary. A former letter to Sir Walter, notifying him of his election, may have been sent, and may never have come to hand. The letter which follows was filed with letters bearing a later date than the year of Sir Walter's election:—

“SIR,—I am honored with your obliging letter. I certainly was not aware of the honor done me by the Historical Society of Massachusetts in electing me one of their members. Their plan and purpose seem highly honorable to themselves, and likely to be permanently useful to their country. It is not

JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq., was added to the Committee for preparing the index for the tenth volume of the Collections.\*

*Voted*, That the President be allowed to take from the Library the volume of the Trumbull papers which contains the letters from General Washington, for the perusal of His Excellency the Governor.

*Voted*, That the following named books be received from the Rev. William Jenks in lieu of his admission money: viz., *Précis sur l'Amérique*, 8vo; *Cotton's Works*, two volumes, 4to; *Johnson's Christian Plea*; *Cawdrey against Cotton and Hooker*, 4to; *Conduite des François*, 12mo; *Nortoni Responsio*, 12mo; *Robinson's Tracts*, 4to; *Adams's Tracts*, 8vo; and *Mather's Tract on Ministry*.

William Jones Spooner, Esq., and Rev. Ezra S. Goodwin were nominated Resident Members by the Standing Committee; and Fred. Adelung, of Petersburg, a Corresponding Member by Mr. Pickering.

*Voted*, That a copy of the Collections be presented to the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh, through Sir Walter Scott.

very likely, considering the pressure of other avocations, the indolence of advancing age, and my natural dislike to correspondence of every kind, I can ever hope to testify my gratitude to the Society for the honor they have done me, otherwise than by the thanks which I hope you will have the goodness to communicate to them. But I hope the sincerity of these thanks will make some amends.

"I beg you at the same time to accept of my best acknowledgments for the trouble which you have taken in my behalf, and for the opportunity which your kindness has given me to express my gratitude to the Historical Society of Massachusetts for the distinction they have been pleased to confer on me, being, with respect, your obliged and obedient servant,

"WALTER SCOTT.

"ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE, August 25.

"Should the Society be desirous of procuring transcriptions of any papers or records which may be preserved in Scotland, I would be most happy to further their wishes, on being made acquainted with them.

"CHARLES LOWELL, D.D., Boston,  
North America."

Eds.

\* Mr. Bowdoin prepared the chronological table, and rendered important assistance in preparing the index for this series. — Eds.

Mr. COOLIDGE and Mr. MERRILL were appointed a Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts.

Meeting adjourned to the house of the President.\*

### ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1822.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, April 25, 1822,—

|                            |            |                          |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| HON. JOHN DAVIS . . . . .  | was chosen | PRESIDENT.               |
| CHARLES LOWELL . . . . .   | „          | RECORDING SECRETARY.     |
| ABIEL HOLMES, D.D. . . . . | „          | CORRESPONDING SECRETARY. |
| JAMES SAVAGE, Esq. . . . . | „          | TREASURER.               |
| ELISHA CLAP, Esq. . . . .  | „          | LIBRARIAN.               |
| REDFORD WEBSTER, Esq. . .  | „          | CABINET-KEEPER.          |
| JAMES FREEMAN, D.D.        | }          | were chosen              |
| THOMAS L. WINTHROP, Esq.   |            |                          |
| REV. JOHN PIERCE           |            |                          |
| WILLIAM TUDOR, Esq.        |            |                          |
| FRANCIS C. GRAY, Esq.      |            |                          |

Mr. GRAY was appointed on the Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts, in the place of Mr. Coolidge.

The said Committee made the following report, viz:—

The undersigned, a Committee appointed by the Historical Society to examine the accounts of James Savage, Esq., their Treasurer, having duly proceeded therein, find the accounts well kept, correctly cast, and properly vouched, and further

\* The Rev. Stephen Palmer, elected a member in August, 1816, died Oct. 31, 1821. A notice of him by the Rev. H. M. Dexter, D.D., will be found on pp. 343-345. — Eds.

report that there is remaining in his hands a balance of one hundred and fifty-six dollars and seventy-nine cents.

(Signed)            JAMES C. MERRILL } *Committee.*  
                         FRANCIS C. GRAY }

Mr. PIERCE, Dr. HOLMES, and Mr. JENKS were appointed a committee to publish five hundred copies of the original Circular Letter of the Society, with such alterations and additions as they may think proper.

*Voted*, That Benjamin R. Nichols, Esq., be requested to cause the whole, or a part, at his discretion, of the Hutchinson papers to be bound, and in such a manner as he may think proper.\*

*Voted*, To permit the passage under the Arch leading to this room to be altered in conformity with the other side, provided it be done without expense to the Society.

*Voted*, That a set of the Collections, commencing with the second series, be presented to Mrs. Hannah Crocker, to be continued during her life, it being in consideration of her having deposited with the Society a valuable portion of the Mather Library.

The Librarian, Dr. HARRIS, and Mr. JENKS were appointed a committee to select such pamphlets in the Library as they may think proper, and cause them to be bound.

WILLIAM JONES SPOONER, Esq., and the Rev. EZRA S. GOODWIN were elected Resident Members, and FREDERICK ADELUNG, of Petersburg, a Corresponding Member, of the Society.

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\* Mr. Nichols caused three volumes of papers to be bound, and lettered "Hutchinson Papers." These volumes were, many years afterward, claimed by the State, on the plea that the papers deposited with the Society by Mr. Secretary Bradford had been the property of the State, and that the State had never, by any act of its own, parted with the property. The volumes are now at the State House. See, in reference to the "Hutchinson Papers" claim, the index to Proceedings from 1869 to 1875, inclusive. — Eds.

William Lee, Esq., of Washington, was nominated a Corresponding Member by Mr. Tudor.

Meeting dissolved.

[Two Resident Members died since the last annual meeting: viz., James Winthrop and Stephen Palmer. A memoir of the latter never having been printed in the Collections, is here supplied. — Eds.]

*Notice of Rev. Stephen Palmer.*

Rev. Stephen Palmer was the third son and fifth child of Rev. Joseph and Mrs. Sarah (Eames) Palmer, and was born at Norton, Massachusetts, Oct. 3, 1766. His father was the sixth and youngest child of Stephen Palmer, of Cambridge (son of Stephen, of Cambridge; former residence not ascertained), who graduated from Harvard College, 1747; was settled over the First Congregational Church in Norton, Jan. 3, 1753; received A.M. from Harvard and Yale, 1753; and died at Norton, April 4, 1791.

Stephen suffered much from feeble health in his early years. Two or three times it was thought that he could not long survive, and once it was supposed that he was dead. When sixteen years of age, he met with an accident which badly fractured his arm, and, possibly through imperfect surgical attendance, he was left, after recovery, with a stiff elbow. These physical misfortunes, which stood in the way of his gaining a competent livelihood by manual labor, induced his father to consent to, and counsel, his procurement of a liberal education. He commenced fitting for college in the spring of 1784, under the instruction of Mr. H. Townsend, at Wrentham, Massachusetts; finished his preparatory studies with Rev. Jason Haven, of Dedham, Massachusetts; entered Harvard in 1785; and, passing respectably, and without stain

upon his character, through college, graduated in 1789. Returning to his father's house, he studied theology at home, until his father's death in the spring of 1791. In the following July, he preached his first sermon in the pulpit of his uncle, Rev. John Ellis, who had married his father's sister, Bethiah, and was then settled at Rehoboth, Massachusetts. Soon after, he preached as a candidate at Attleborough, Massachusetts, and was invited to settle there, but declined. Subsequently, he supplied the place left vacant by his father at Norton, and was heard at Needham, Massachusetts, where he received again an invitation to become pastor, which, after two months of deliberation, he accepted. His ordination was appointed for October 17, following; but, the small-pox raging then in the town, the solemnity did not take place until Nov. 7, 1792.

He continued the relation thus formed until his death, which occurred Oct. 31, 1821, just thirty years and a single day after the date when he preached for the first time to that people. His death was caused by paralysis, which laid him aside from active labor during the last two years which he lived. His funeral sermon was preached by Rev. John White, of Dedham, third parish, and was published.

Mr. Palmer was reputed an excellent Christian minister, greatly beloved by his people while he lived, and deeply lamented by them when he died.

He married, May 22, 1794, Catherine, only daughter of Rev. Mr. Haven, of Dedham, with whom he had completed his preparation for college, and had four children.

He published, as follows:—

1. Sermon occasioned by the Death of Calvin Whiting, A.M., of Needham. 8vo, pp. 20. 1795.
2. Sermon delivered at Rowley, second parish, June 7, 1797, at the Ordination of Rev. Isaac Braman. 8vo, pp. 36. 1797.
3. Sermon occasioned by the Death of Mr. Jeremiah Fuller, who died April 19, 1798. 8vo, pp. 28. 1798.
4. Sermon: Christ's Washing his Disciples' Feet, intended for a Sacramental Washing, at Needham, Jan. 24, 1808. 8vo, pp. 40. 1808.

5. Sermon delivered at Mansfield, July 31, 1808, being the fourth Lord's Day after the Interment of Rev. Roland Green. 8vo, pp. 32. 1808.
6. Sermon occasioned by the Deaths of Amos and Sarah Fuller, May 17 and 21, 1810. 8vo, pp. 20. 1810.
7. Dedication Sermon, Dover, June 11, 1811: The Glory of the Second Temple greater than that of the First. 8vo, pp. 30. 1811.
8. A Century Sermon, delivered in Needham, Nov. 16, 1811. 8vo, pp. 44. 1811.
9. Sermon delivered in Needham, March 22, 1812, occasioned by the Death of Rev. Messrs. Sears, Caryl, and Chickering. 8vo, pp. 24. 1812.
10. Sermon delivered, Oct. 22, 1812, at the Interment of Rev. Thomas Thacher, Dedham. 8vo, pp. 26. 1812.
11. Sermon occasioned by the Death of Colonel William McIntosh, who died Jan. 3, 1813. 8vo, pp. 22. 1813.
12. Sermon preached before the Military Company of Exempts, Needham, Nov. 17, 1814. With Constitution. 8vo, pp. 20. 1814.
13. Sermon at Needham, March 19, 1813: The Early Example of Christ to be imitated by Children. 12mo, pp. 32. 1815.
14. Sermon occasioned by the Death of Mr. Paul Alden, who died Dec. 3, 1815. 8vo, pp. 20. 1816.
15. Sermon delivered in Needham, first parish, the Lord's Day after the Interment of Mrs. Lydia Fairbanks, who died March 14, 1816. 8vo, pp. 16. 1816.
16. Mr. Palmer also delivered the Right Hand of Fellowship at the Ordination of Rev. Thomas Noyes, at Needham, July 10, 1799, and the Charge at the Ordination of the Rev. Alvan Lamson, at Dedham, Oct. 29, 1813, both of which were published.
17. The "American Quarterly Register" (VIII. 53) credits Mr. Palmer with another Right Hand and Charge, as published; and with having issued a "Revision of Watts's Psalms and Hymns, with Occasional Hymns, 1811." But these we have not seen. With this exception, his publications are all in the Society's Library.

Mr. Palmer was elected a Resident Member of the Society,  
Aug. 27, 1816.

H. M. D.

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### QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Aug. 27, 1822,—the members present were, Bowdoin, Clap, J. Davis, Freeman, Gray, Harris, Jenks, Lowell, Merrill, Pierce, Ripley, Shaw, and T. L. Winthrop.



*Voted*, That the thanks of the Society be given to George W. Erving, Esq., for his valuable donation of medals commemorative of events during the American Revolution.

A list of donations was exhibited by the Corresponding Secretary.

*Voted*, That a complete set of the Collections be presented to the Boston Athenæum.

WILLIAM LEE, Esq., of Washington, was elected a Corresponding Member.

Admiral ISAAC COFFIN was nominated a Corresponding Member by Dr. Freeman.

*Voted*, That the Corresponding Secretary address a letter to Admiral Coffin, requesting his kind offices in procuring the Hutchinson papers for the Society, and that Dr. Freeman be requested to see him on the same subject.\*

GEORGE W. ERVING, Esq., was nominated a Corresponding Member by Mr. T. L. Winthrop.†

Meeting dissolved.

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\* By "Hutchinson papers" was intended the third volume in manuscript. — Eds.

† Mr. James Perkins, a Resident Member, died Aug. 1, 1822. He was elected a Corresponding Member in May, 1792, while residing at Cape François, in the island of San Domingo; and, having returned to Boston, he was, March 25, 1796, requested by the Society, through the Corresponding Secretary, by a letter on file, to take his place among the Resident Members. In the first printed list of members, therefore, appended to the fifth volume of Collections, the name of James Perkins, of Boston, appears as a Resident Member. In a list of members prefixed to Vol. I., fourth series, prepared by our late associate, Dr. Shurtleff, in 1853, Mr. Perkins's name is placed on the Corresponding Roll, probably for the reason that Dr. Shurtleff saw that Mr. Perkins was originally elected a Corresponding Member, and that the Recording Secretary's records are silent as to the transference of his name to the other list, — Dr. Belknap's letter to him, dated March 28, 1796, being the only contemporary evidence of his election as a Resident Member, or of the transference of his name as stated.

A memoir of Mr. Perkins by his grandson, Mr. Charles C. Perkins, will be found on pp. 353-368. — Eds.

## QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Oct. 31, 1822, — the members present were, Bowdoin, Bradford, Davis, Freeman, Hale, Holmes, Jenks, Lowell, Merrill, Pierce, W. J. Spooner, Tudor, R. Webster, and T. L. Winthrop.

Admiral ISAAC COFFIN and GEORGE W. ERVING, Esq., were elected Corresponding Members.

*Voted*, That the Standing Committee be requested to procure an examination of the library of the late Lieutenant-Governor Phillips, and to obtain for the Society such books and pamphlets relating to the history of this country as they may think proper.

A list of persons in New Hampshire, who had attained to the age of one hundred years and upwards, was presented by Mr. JOHN FARMER, and referred to the Publishing Committee, to be inserted in the next volume.\*

*Voted*, That Mr. Tyng be a committee to procure a copy of the chart of Merrimac River, taken by Holland and his company, which is now in the Marine Insurance Office at Newburyport, provided it can be done without expense to the Society.†

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\* Farmer's list of centenarians was published in 2 Collections, X. 176-180, and was continued in 3 Collections, I. 155-158. It must have been quite impossible for Mr. Farmer to have investigated the claim of this large number of persons to have arrived at the great age indicated. — EDS.

† The success of Mr. Tyng's application is shown by a reference to the list of donations acknowledged in 3 Collections, I. 297, where is entered, "MS. Map of Merrimack River (original), taken a short time before the American Revolution, by survey of Grant and Wheeler, under the direction of Holland, by order of the British Government. D. A. Tyng, Esq."

The Society has a large map corresponding to the above description, entitled as follows: —

"A Plan of the Sea Coast from Rye Ledge to the West End of Cape Ann Harbor, and the River Merrimack from its mouth to Litchfield Meeting-house. As surveyed by Messrs. Grant and Wheeler, Deputy-Surveyors to Samuel

John Lowell, Esq., was nominated a Resident Member by the Standing Committee.\*

Meeting dissolved.

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#### QUARTERLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1823.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Jan. 30, 1823,—the members present were, Bowdoin, Clap, Coolidge, Davis, Freeman, Gray, Hale, Harris, Hedge, Holmes, Jenks, Lowell, Mitchell, Pickering, Pierce, Ripley, Shaw, Tudor, Ware, and R. Webster.

JOHN LOWELL, Esq., was elected a Resident Member.

A communication from an Historical Society lately formed at Brunswick, in the State of Maine, was committed to Messrs. SAVAGE, LOWELL, CLAP, HARRIS, and BOWDOIN, to consider the expediency of complying with the request contained in that communication; and, if in their opinion expedient, to report a list of such books and pamphlets in our Library as may be presented to said Society.

*Voted*, That the stated meetings of this Society, in future, with the exception of the meeting in August, be held at twelve o'clock M.; the meeting in August to be holden at four o'clock P.M., as heretofore.

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Holland, Esq., His Majesty's Surveyor-General of Lands for the Northern District of North America, &c., &c., &c."

In one corner of the map the following is written:—

"N. B. This plan was presented to sundry gentlemen at Newburyport by Mr. Holland, surveyor, &c., for which a gratuity was made by those gentlemen. Their names, as recollected by one of the subscribers many years after subscription, are Patrick Tracy, Thomas Woodbridge, Tristram Dalton, John Lowell, Stephen Hooper, Jonathan Jackson, and Nathaniel Tracy, all at that time resident in Newburyport."—EDS.

\* Professor Peck, who was chosen a member of the Society in 1792, died Oct. 3, 1822. Notices of him by several writers are in 2 Collections, X. 161-170.—EDS.